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the
**Gypsy
Moth**

**menaces our
living resources:**

shade trees and forests

recreational areas

wildlife habitats

*Prepared from information supplied by
Plant Pest Control Division, Agricultural
Research Service, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.*

the

Gypsy Moth

menaces our living resources :

YEARS OF TROUBLE

For the past century caterpillars of the gypsy moth have been stripping leaves from our eastern shade trees and hardwood forests. In some seasons, they have defoliated over one half million acres of trees.

Two successive defoliations cause the death of oak, birch, poplar, willow, linden, apple, pear, and other hardwoods. A single defoliation will kill hemlock and cause considerable damage to white pine.

Even when defoliation fails to kill the trees, damage is generally severe. Trees stripped of their leaves produce little or no growth. And more seriously, defoliated trees mean a dry forest—inviting fires and rapid runoff of water. The runoff carries away the topsoil, choking streams, lakes, and reservoirs with silt.

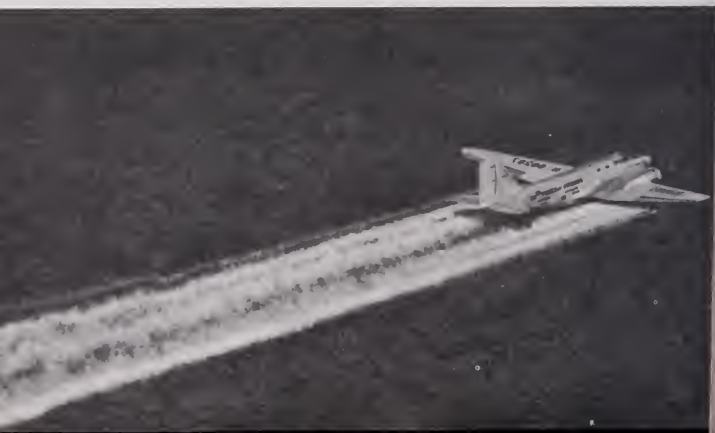
OTHER DAMAGE

Wildlife habitats are upset when gypsy moth caterpillars destroy the forest canopy. Food for birds and wild animals is affected and animal populations may find it necessary to move to new territory. Recreation areas lose their value when trees are denuded in midsummer. Hordes of caterpillars are a nuisance to the public.

CONSTANT SPREAD

The gypsy moth was brought to Medford, Mass., from Europe in 1869. Since that time, the pest has

Spraying forests with insecticide





Trees die when defoliated

steadily fanned outward. Now colonies of these insects can be found on nearly 40 million acres in Northeastern United States.

So far, plant pest control officials have been successful in keeping the moth restricted to Northeastern States except for isolated infestations. An isolated infestation found near Lansing, Mich., in 1954 has been virtually eliminated. Also, outbreaks in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio have been stamped out in recent years.

If infestations in the Northeastern States are not controlled, this pest could spread rapidly down the Allegheny and Appalachian Mountains into 100 million acres of our most valuable hardwood resources in the midwest and the Ozark Mountains.

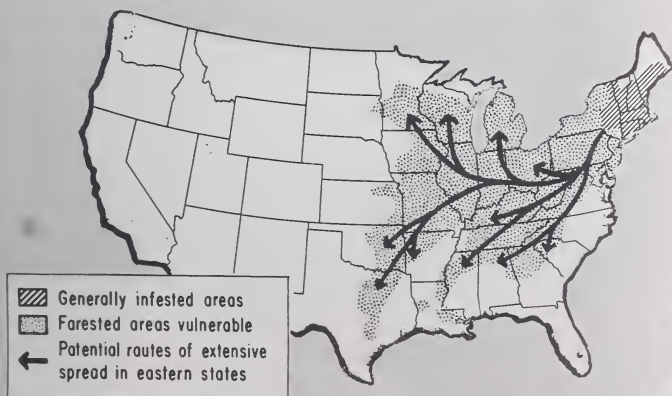
ERADICATION PROGRAM

Until recently, control efforts slowed, but failed to stop, the spread of the gypsy moth. In 1956, a State-Federal cooperative program was launched in an attempt to eradicate the pest.

Long-range plans call for treating the outlying periphery at the southern and western borders of the infested areas, and moving inward in successive stages each season until the gypsy moth has been eliminated.

A SAFE AND SANE PROGRAM

In devising the gypsy moth eradication program,



Federal and State pest control officials gave prime consideration to the safety and health of people; of crops, livestock, and wildlife.

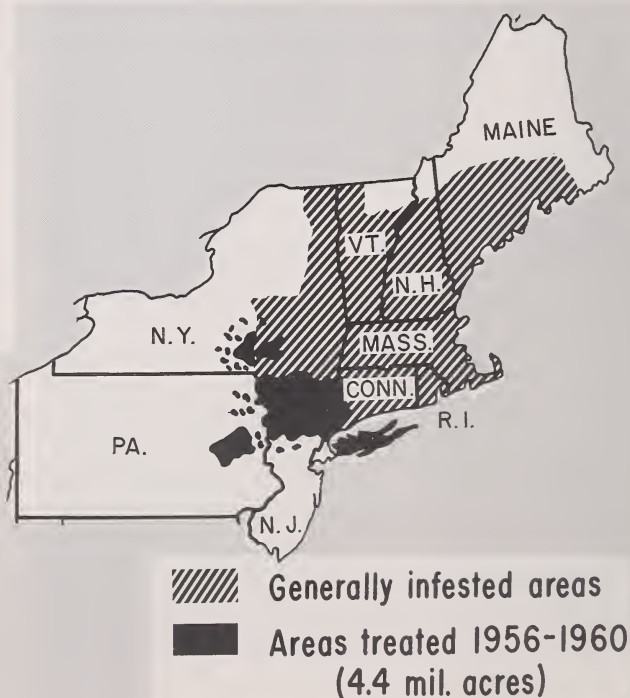
When insecticides are applied from aircraft, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and other major bodies of water are avoided. Radio communications, balloons, flares, and other means are employed to guide aircraft treating the trees and forests so that the treatment is safe and accurate.

MILLIONS OF ACRES TREATED SAFELY

Through 1961, about 10 million acres of forests have been treated with DDT for control or eradication of the gypsy moth. During this period, no serious or widespread losses of wildlife occurred when DDT was applied either by aircraft or ground equipment at the rate of 1 pound per acre.

More recently, an additional 120,000 acres were treated safely with a new insecticide—Sevin. This insecticide breaks down faster after application than DDT thus eliminating the residue problem in agricultural products and forage crops—including pasture lands. It is low in toxicity to humans, other warmblooded animals, birds, and fish.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and co-operating States continue to search for better eradication materials and procedures which (1) are effective against the gypsy moth, and (2) present no hazard to fish, wildlife, and agriculture.



QUARANTINES HELP PREVENT SPREAD

As part of the eradication program, State and Federal quarantines are in effect. Under these quarantine regulations, forest products, quarry-stone, and cultivated and native plant materials must be inspected and certified free of gypsy moths before they can be shipped out of infested areas into (1) eradication areas, or (2) uninfested areas. These measures help prevent the spread of the gypsy moth into remote regions.

You can help fight this enemy by following quarantine regulations.

LIFE OF THE GYPSY MOTH

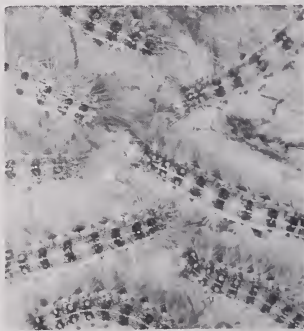
The gypsy moth produces only one generation a year. The insects pass the winter as eggs, hatching into grayish-black, hairy caterpillars late in April or early May. They feed mostly at night and crawl down from the trees at daylight. They spend the day in crevices in the bark and under the litter on the ground. For this reason, it's difficult to spot the caterpillars unless you know their habits.

The caterpillars generally enter a resting or pupal stage in late June and emerge from their pupal case

Egg masses on tree



Caterpillars eat leaves



Male moth, dark; female, light



in early July as moths. The females do not fly but deposit their eggs for the next generation on stones, tree trunks, fences, and other objects close at hand.

TIME TO STRIKE BACK

Gypsy moth infestations run in cycles. They build up to damaging populations in about 4 out of 7 years.

After a century of trouble and expense, it's time to end the menace of the gypsy moth.

For further information contact your:

Local County Agricultural Agent
State Department of Agriculture
State Department of Conservation
State College of Agriculture
Local Plant Pest Control Inspector, USDA



Baited trap used to find infestation

